

HERMITAGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AND GARDENING CLUB

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT to the April 2021 APA

From a gardening point of view, a lot of plants and fruit performed extremely well in 2020 and are showing great promise in 2021 as well. As in any year, there are winners and losers; for the majority of us on clay soils, who were canny enough not to cut the grass at the outset of the drought, lawns kept wonderfully green but those who garden on poor sandy soil or builder's rubble it was more of a challenge. For reasons I will not go into, it was not possible for us to be able to organise or carry out the activities planned for the year.

We did begin last year with a fascinating talk on astronomy by Mr Tony Hersh, a member of the Newbury Astronomical Society illustrating some mind-boggling facts and figures about the universe. In February Mrs Judith Plante-Cleall talked about houses of the National Trust and how the kitchens and dining rooms as well as what was eaten in stately homes had changed over the centuries.

In view of the limited activities and cancelation of shows the committee has decided to carry forward everyone's subscriptions for this year in recognition of being unable to make full use of membership. This has also been enabled by the magnanimous offer from the Village Hall committee not to charge us for cancelled bookings.

We must also thank the Parish Council for their generous grant for supporting our work with providing lecturers, open to all Hermitage residents, in carrying out our constitutional brief to provide social interaction and educational events. The grant monies were only partially used and so we are continuing to use it for the same purposes this year.

Currently our schedule of events is for the plant sale to take place on Saturday 22nd May and the summer show on July 10th and the Autumn show on September 11th.

I do hope that you feel we are supporting a worthwhile pastime and that you will consider continuing your subscription and support for many years to come in the hope that the pandemic precautions will not stymie us again.

Charles Gilchrist